

REMARKS

Claims remaining in the present application are Claims 1, 4 - 8, 11, and 13 - 21. Claims 1, 5, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20, and 21 have been amended. Claim 22 has been cancelled. No new matter has been added as a result of these amendments.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 13 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as containing newly claimed subject matter.

Claim 13

The rejection indicates, "support could not be found in the specification as originally filed, for the newly claimed subject matter that the control function is determined based only on the activated buttons." The Applicants respectfully submit that Figure 3 of the present invention and the accompanying description of Figure 3 (beginning on page 5 line 10 of the specification) provide clear support for this claim language. Referring to block 20 of Figure 3, the only user input required in the entire process to control an audio visual device is the activation of a button on the remote. This causes a signal to be sent from the remote that starts the determination process and performs the desired function. No other user input such as clicking on a separate mouse, clicking on a separate keyboard, selecting a function in a graphical user interface with a cursor, or

manipulating a separate selector switch not on the remote is necessary to select an item to control or to send a command to control the item.

Further, on page 4 lines 17 - 20, the specification clearly indicates that the remote control provides a single device with which the user can control multiple audio video devices associated with a personal computer. Based on these disclosures in the original specification, the Applicants respectfully submit that there is clear support in the specification for the claim that the control function is determined based only on the activated buttons. Therefore, in light of the descriptions from the specification, Claim 13 is believed to overcome the 35 U.S.C. §112 rejection, and it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 20

The rejection indicates, "support could not be found in the specification as originally filed, for the newly claimed subject matter that a graphical user interface is not necessary." The Applicants respectfully reiterate that the specification teaches an embodiment of the present invention, "wherein a graphical user interface is not necessary." As an example, in one embodiment, interaction is taught in the specification as being between the remote control and the tuner box, the tuner box and graphics card, and the graphics card and the personal computer. See e.g., page 4 lines 12 - 16 of the specification. See also e.g. Figure 2, and Figure 3 of the specification. Interaction with a graphical user

interface is not required at any step in the cited embodiment taught on page 4, lines 12 -16 of the specification. Neither is a graphical user interface necessary in the system diagram of Figure 2 or the process of Figure 3 of the specification.

The embodiments of the present invention clearly disclose a means and a process for controlling audio visual devices associated with a personal computer, and interaction with a graphical user interface in a personal computer is not necessary in that process. A preferred method of control is disclosed and described in Figure 3 of the specification. In this method, the only necessary input is selection of a button on a remote. Further, on page 4 lines 17 - 20, the specification clearly indicates that the remote control provides a single device with which the user can control multiple audio video devices associated with a personal computer. Certainly, a personal computer is involved in this process, and it is therefore possible to interact with a graphic user interface. However, it is not necessary.

The rejection seemingly suggests that it is impossible or out of the ordinary to perform actions with a personal computer without using a graphic user interface, and therefore some sort of positive disclosure or negative claiming should have taken place. This is simply not true, and one skilled in the art can recite an assortment of interactions with a personal computer that do not require a graphical user interface. For instance, personal computers and components within them can be interacted with via networks control signals, via keyboard

shortcut commands, via mechanical inputs such as inserting an audio CD that is automatically played, or, as in the embodiments of the present invention, via buttons on a remote control device. Therefore, Claim 20 is believed to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejection, and it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 4, and 14 - 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schindler et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,675,390 (hereinafter, Schindler) in view of Tsurumoto et al. U.S. Patent No. 4,817,203 (hereinafter, Tsurumoto).

The Applicants have reviewed the cited references, and respectfully submit that the embodiments of the present invention as recited in Claim 1 are neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by Schindler in view of Tsurumoto, either alone or in combination. The Examiner is respectfully directed to independent Claim 1, which recites that an embodiment of the present invention is directed to a method for remotely controlling audio/visual devices within a personal computer, the method comprising:

... receiving data signals from a single control device;
accessing a look-up table having a plurality of mappings
between each of the data signals from said single control device and
an appropriate control function for each of the A/V devices;
translating the received data signals to particular control
functions utilizing the look-up table, wherein an input of the data
signals from the single control device is the only input required for
the translating...

Independent Claims 14 and 18 contain similar limitations and were rejected with the same rationale. Claim 4 depends from independent Claim 1, and recites further limitations to the claimed invention. Claims 15 - 17 depend from independent Claim 14 and recite further limitations to the claimed invention.

The Applicants submit that neither Schindler nor Tsurumoto, alone or in combination, teach or suggest, receiving data signals from a single control device and accessing a look-up table having a plurality of mappings between each of the data signals from said single control device and an appropriate control function for each of the A/V devices, as claimed. Therefore, Claim 1 is not rendered obvious by Schindler in view of Tsurumoto.

The Applicants respectfully submit that Schindler does not teach or suggest, receiving data signals from a single control device and accessing a look-up table having a plurality of mappings between each of the data signals from said single control device and an appropriate control function for each of the A/V devices. Instead, Schindler uses each remote control device (note the use of plural remotes) to control a different cursor on a screen. When the cursor is used to select a program, it (the remote control device) becomes the primary controller for that program. The keys on the remote are then mapped into the program selected. See e.g. col. 18 lines 30 - 38. Figure 11a, and the accompanying description show how the remotes of Schindler are utilized to

control application programs; see e.g. col. 15 lines 13 - 46 and Figure 11a of Schindler. The use of multiple remotes to control application programs, is not the same as the use of a single remote to control functions of audio video devices, as claimed.

Consequently, the Applicants respectfully submit that Schindler does not teach or suggest the Applicants' invention as set forth in Claim 1, and as such Claim 1 is in condition of allowance.

The Applicants respectfully submit that Tsurumoto does not cure the defects note above with regard to Schindler. Tsurumoto, like Schindler, does not teach or suggest, receiving data signals from a single control device and accessing a look-up table having a plurality of mappings between each of the data signals from said single control device and an appropriate control function for each of the A/V devices, as claimed. Instead, Tsurumoto teaches the need to use a control device in conjunction with an external selector device. For example, both embodiments taught by Tsurumoto use a remote 8 in conjunction with another external operation associated with the input control circuit 18 that responds to inputs from a keyboard or the like. See e.g. col. 1 lines 46 - 59, col. 2 lines 8 - 14, and col. 3 lines 36 - 40. Also see page 6 of the current rejection, which states, "Tsurumoto uses a code converter (similar to the mapping table of Schindler) to send a signal to the device selected by input controller 18." While the Applicants disagree that Tsurumoto is similar to Schindler, the Applicants do

concur with the portion of the Examiner's statement that clearly indicates Tsurumoto requires inputs from two control devices to control audio video devices e.g., one from an external selection device linked to input controller 18 and one from a remote control which is received at signal receiver 12; see the signal flow paths in Figure 2 of Tsurumoto. The Applicants also submit that this is not the same receiving data signals from a single control device and accessing a look-up table having a plurality of mappings between each of the data signals from said single control device and an appropriate control function for each of the A/V devices, as claimed.

Further, MPEP §2143.01 indicates that, obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention, where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either explicitly or implicitly in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. The Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner point out the motivation in Tsurumoto for combining its teaching with the device of Schindler, as the Applicants can discern no such motivation to combine the cursor driven control device of Schindler which utilizes multiple remotes, with the control system of Tsurumoto that requires inputs from two separate devices, to achieve the embodiments of the present invention that use one control device and do not require the use of cursors.

Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that Schindler in combination with Tsurumoto neither anticipates nor renders obvious the present claimed invention as recited in independent Claim 1, 14, and 18. As such, the Applicants submit that Claims 1, 14, and 18 overcome the Examiner's basis for rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), and are in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, the Applicants also respectfully submit that Schindler in combination with Tsurumoto does not anticipate or render obvious the present claimed invention as is recited in Claim 4 dependent from Claim 1, or Claims 15 - 17 dependent from Claim 14. As such, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 4, and 15 - 17 overcome the basis for rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), through dependence on allowable base claims, and are therefore also in condition for allowance.

Claims 5 - 8, 11, 13, and 19 - 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schindler and Tsurumoto as applied to Claims 1, 4, and 14 - 18 above, further in view of Bauersachs et al. Publication Number 2004/0025189 (hereinafter, Bauersachs). Claim 22 has been cancelled. The Applicants have reviewed the cited references, and respectfully submit that the embodiments of the present invention as recited in Claims 5 - 8, 11, 13, and 19 - 21 are neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by Schindler and Tsurumoto in further view of Bauersachs. The Examiner is respectfully directed to independent Claim 5, which recites that an embodiment of the present invention

is directed to a system for remotely controlling a plurality of audio/visual (A/V) devices, the system comprising:

a single remote control device with selectable buttons for transmitting data signals wirelessly to access control of the plurality of A/V devices;

a connection hardware, coupling the plurality of A/V devices and the PC , for translating the data signals to appropriate control functions, wherein the selectable buttons are automatically associated with the appropriate control functions for a particular A/V device, and wherein an input of the data signals from the single remote control device is the only input required for the translating;

and

a PC for controlling the plurality of A/V devices utilizing the appropriate control functions.

Independent Claims 13, 19, 20, and 21 contain similar limitations and were rejected with the same rationale. Claims 6 - 8 and 11 depend from independent Claim 5 and add further limitations to the claimed invention.

The Applicants respectfully submit that Bauersachs does not cure the defects of Schindler and Tsurumoto noted above in conjunction with Claims 1, 4, and 14 - 18. Bauersachs, like Schindler and Tsurumoto, is silent with respect to connection hardware, coupling the plurality of A/V devices and the PC, for translating the data signals to appropriate control functions, wherein the selectable buttons are automatically associated with the appropriate control functions for a particular A/V device, and wherein an input of the data signals from the single control device is the only input required for the translating, as claimed. While Bauersachs teaches an assortment of connection hardware, a type of keyboard, and a wireless remote, it is unclear how the signals from the

remote of Bauersachs are utilized; see e.g., paragraphs 105, 143, and 144 of Bauersachs. It is possible either that the signals from the remote are never decoded; see e.g., paragraph 143 describing the signal path from the keyboard in conjunction with paragraph 144 describing the same signal path for the remote. It is also possible that commands from the remote are reinterpreted "in keyboard commands for menu selection;" see e.g., paragraph 144. Neither of these possibilities teaches translating the signals from the single remote into the appropriate control functions for an audio video device, as claimed.

Further, MPEP §2143.01 indicates that, obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to product the claimed invention, where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either explicitly or implicitly in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. The Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner point out the motivation in Bauersachs for combining its teaching with the teachings of Tsurumoto and the device of Schindler, as the Applicants can discern no such motivation to combine the cursor driven control device of Schindler which utilizes multiple remotes, with the control system of Tsurumoto that requires inputs from two separate devices, with the control system of Bauersachs that either does not decode signals from the remote or else decodes the signals as keyboard commands to control menus, to achieve the embodiments of the present invention that use one control device and do not require the use of cursors or menus.

Additionally, with respect to independent Claims 19 and 21 and dependent Claim 7, neither Schindler nor Tsurumoto teaches a graphics board for translating the data signals. This is an important distinction, and Bauersachs fails to cure this deficiency.

Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that neither Schindler, Tsurumoto, nor Bauersachs, anticipates or renders obvious the present claimed invention as recited in independent Claims 5, 13, 19, 20, or 21 or dependent Claim 7. As such, the Applicants submit that independent Claims 5, 13, 19, 20, and 21 and dependent Claim 7 all overcome the Examiner's basis for rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), and are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Applicants also respectfully submit that neither Schindler, Tsurumoto, nor Bauersachs anticipates or renders obvious the present invention as is recited in Claims 6 - 8 and 11 dependent from Claim 1. As such, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 6 - 8, and 11 overcome the basis for rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), through dependence on an allowable base claim, and are therefore also in condition for allowance.

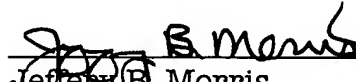
SUMMARY

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims in the instant patent application are in condition for allowance. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Application and allowance of the pending claims.

If the Examiner determines the prompt allowance of these claims could be facilitated by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' designated representative at the below listed phone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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